

2014

# The Daily Gamecock, Friday, November 14, 2014

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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TDG Sports Staff ranks all SEC  
basketball teams ahead of the  
2014-15 season | PGS 10 & 12

Get familiar with your men's  
and women's head basketball  
coaches | PG 15

Spurrier makes his fifth trip to  
"The Swamp" as the opposing  
head coach | PG 21

# Weekender

Friday,  
November 14, 2014



**THE  
BASKETBALL  
EDITION**



Olivia Barthel | *Weekender*

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# Johnson enters final year

*Senior transfer returns from season-ending injury*

Tanner Abel  
@TABELABEL

He might not have to lead the team in scoring a year ago, but the Gamecocks' success this season will likely hinge on how far senior point guard Tyrone Johnson can take them.

Sophomore swingman Sindarius Thornwell and Johnson should be the main one-two punch for South Carolina's scoring, but Johnson will influence the game in other areas. He will have to set up his teammates for open shots, play opposing guards tough on defense and be the vocal leader offensively to make sure things run smoothly.

Johnson also wants to build on his best collegiate season (11.2 points and 3.4 assists per game) that was shortened to just 16 games because of a broken foot.

It was admittedly a difficult experience for him to miss the last half of the season, but he did everything he could to try and be an older brother to his young teammates on and off the floor.

Support from all around helped him sustain the drive it took to get back to playing at a high level during this preseason.

"With the mental process, I kind of had my teammates and my family still supporting me in my ear," Johnson said. "They were telling me to always continue to be the best person that you can possibly be whether it's on the court or off the court."

Once he healed, the lone senior

on head coach Frank Martin's team returned to working on his game nonstop. Whether it was shooting, defense or ball-handling, Johnson spent countless hours on improving his. He spent an extra month in May working with strength and conditioning coach Scott Greenawalt and trainer Mark Rodger to get his speed and quickness back.

Martin felt terrible for Johnson when the guard went down last year because the senior was starting to accept the coaching staffs' lessons, which led to early-season success.

Martin also applauded Johnson for the steps he took after the injury.

"He was starting to taste it, and the team was starting to play well because he was starting to accept it, and then he broke his foot," Martin said. "What I've been proudest with him is that he didn't go backwards."

Johnson's teammates said several times last season that, even with his absence on the floor, he was valuable during games. Players like Thornwell, center Demetrius Henry and guard Duane Notice were all freshmen at the time, and Johnson made sure to make their adjustment to the college game easier.

After leaving his hometown high school in Plainfield, New Jersey, Johnson played at basketball hotbed Montrose Christian School in Rockville, Maryland along with fellow Gamecock Michael Carrera. Johnson shined in the program that was also the stomping grounds for NBA superstar Kevin Durant.

Johnson then played for coach Jay Wright at Villanova before transferring to South Carolina.

In his first year with the Gamecocks, the NCAA ruled that he did not have to sit out a semester for the transfer.

He said in a press conference earlier this week that he didn't have any nerves to get back on the court in a regular season game — he said he got them all out during the Gamecocks' exhibition against Benedict College where he had 23 points, six rebounds and six assists in a 92-47 win.

If Johnson can put up those numbers regularly during the season, South Carolina will exceed expectations.

Johnson said he won't set any team goals to start, wanting them to focus on the little things first before they really begin to think big.

Martin hopes Johnson can continue to improve as a vocal leader while he's on the floor. The coach said sometimes Johnson is still too quiet as a point guard and gets in his own zone, causing him to forget to communicate with his teammates.

But as far as personal goals go, Johnson said he wants to be better than last year and maximize his potential. He wants to prove he's the best player and a leader each time he steps on the court.

"I just told myself 'When I'm able to play again, I'm just going to bring it my all,'" Johnson said. "It's my last go-around, and I have wanted to prepare myself. And I think to this point, I'm prepared."

WE



# Wilson begins career

*No. 1 recruit in nation faces high expectations in 1st collegiate season*

Dalton Abel  
@DALTON\_ABEL22

Freshman A'ja Wilson is a double-edged sword when it comes to her impact on the women's college basketball landscape.

When she chose to remain in Columbia to attend the University of South Carolina in April, she bolstered the Gamecocks' recruiting class to No. 2 in the nation.

She also chose South Carolina over the likes of traditional powerhouses Connecticut, Tennessee and North Carolina, showing that the Gamecocks, ranked No. 2 in the country, have closed the gap that once stood between them and the nation's elite.

Expectations are high for the nation's No. 1 recruit. As a senior at Heathwood Hall, the 6-foot-5 Wilson averaged 34.4 points, 13.9 rebounds and five blocks per contest en route to winning the Class AAA state title.

Head coach Dawn Staley is excited about the talent Wilson possesses but acknowledges it is unrealistic to expect similar numbers at the collegiate level.

"I think a lot of people are putting a little pressure on her to do what she did at Heathwood Hall," Staley said. "I think she's got a little bit more help [at South

Carolina] than she had [in high school]."

Wilson, who started at the small forward position in the team's exhibition against Coker, has the ability to play all five positions on the floor. Though Staley said it isn't ideal for Wilson to defend another team's guards, Wilson's versatility gives Staley a lot of flexibility when sampling lineups.

As for the program, Staley's signing of Wilson seems to have solidified South Carolina as the premier destination for recruits who hail from the Palmetto State. Staley did not have a South Carolina recruit at her disposal in her first two seasons before signing Aleigsha Welch in 2011.

Wilson acknowledged the impact her Hall of Fame coach has had on the rise of the Gamecocks' program, adding that Staley helped make Columbia feel like the best fit.

"It is tough keeping people home because everyone wants to have that college where it's like 'I want to get away from home,' but really here has been just great for me," Wilson said. "I live 25 minutes away, and I still feel like I'm in that college feeling."

At the Women's Basketball Media Day in mid-October, a flurry of reporters surrounded the Hopkins, South Carolina native that had yet to play a minute for

the Gamecocks at the time.

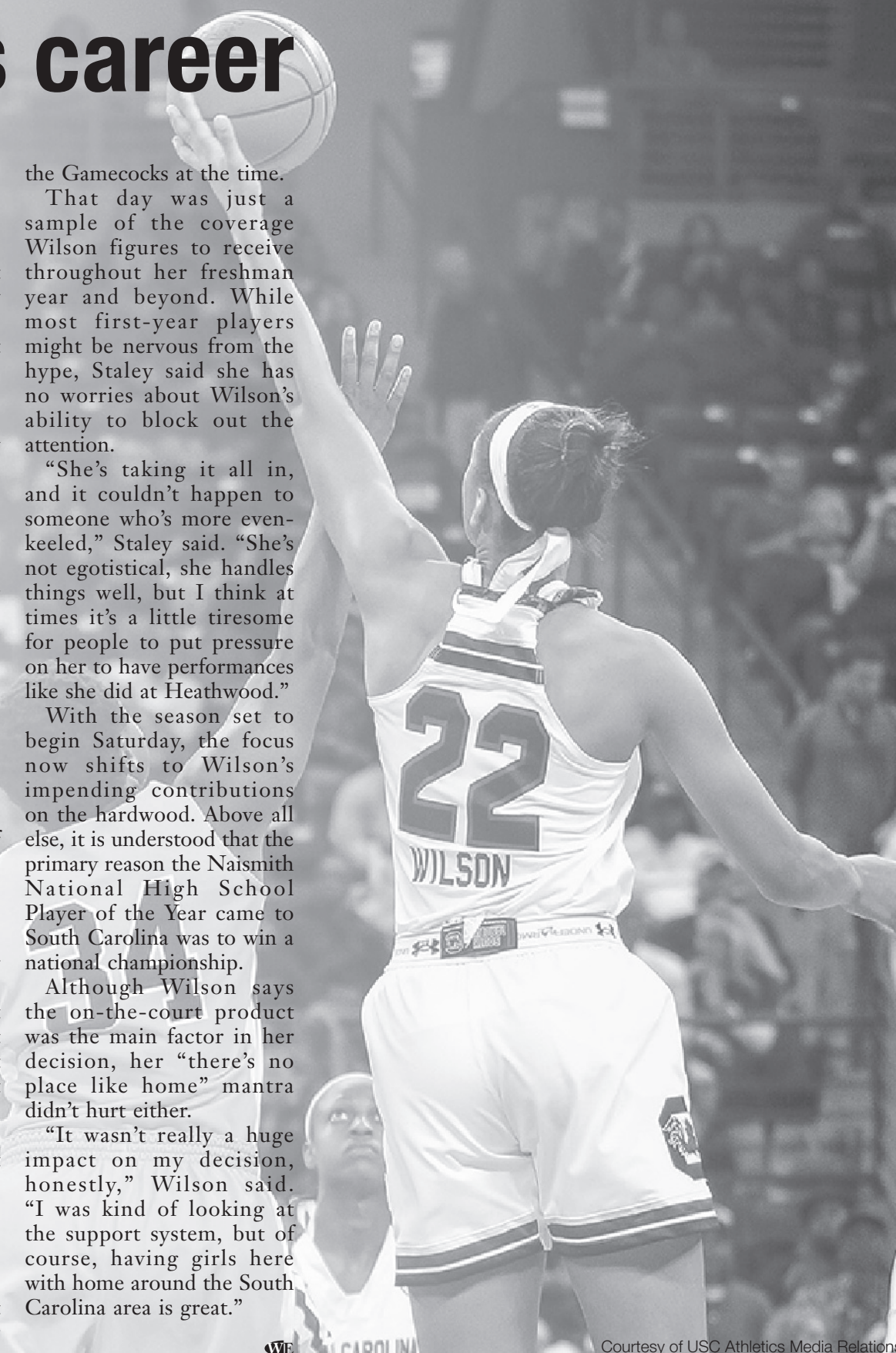
That day was just a sample of the coverage Wilson figures to receive throughout her freshman year and beyond. While most first-year players might be nervous from the hype, Staley said she has no worries about Wilson's ability to block out the attention.

"She's taking it all in, and it couldn't happen to someone who's more even-keeled," Staley said. "She's not egotistical, she handles things well, but I think at times it's a little tiresome for people to put pressure on her to have performances like she did at Heathwood."

With the season set to begin Saturday, the focus now shifts to Wilson's impending contributions on the hardwood. Above all else, it is understood that the primary reason the Naismith National High School Player of the Year came to South Carolina was to win a national championship.

Although Wilson says the on-the-court product was the main factor in her decision, her "there's no place like home" mantra didn't hurt either.

"It wasn't really a huge impact on my decision, honestly," Wilson said. "I was kind of looking at the support system, but of course, having girls here with home around the South Carolina area is great."





# Meet the teams: men's and women's basketball



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 0****Sindarius Thornwell**

Sophomore Guard  
34 games started; 13.4 points per game; 4.1 rebounds per game; 2.9 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 4****Tyrone Johnson**

Redshirt Senior Guard  
9 games started; 11.2 points per game; 2.9 rebounds per game; 3.4 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 14****Laimonas Chatkevicius**

Junior Forward  
1 game started; 4.8 points per game; 4.1 rebounds per game; 0.3 assists per game.



Olivia Barthel | Weekender

**No. 24****Michael Carrera**

Junior Forward  
20 games started; 6 points per game; 5.6 rebounds per game; 0.5 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 25****Mindaugas Kacinas**

Junior Forward  
27 games started; 5.6 points per game; 5.1 rebounds per game; 0.3 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 5****Khadijah Sessions**

Junior Guard  
26 games started; 7.2 points per game; 1.6 rebounds per game; 2.6 assists per game.



Courtesy of Media Relations

**No. 22****A'ja Wilson**

Freshman Guard/Forward  
**IN HIGH SCHOOL:**  
25 games started; 34.4 points per game; 13.9 rebounds per game; 2.2 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 24****Aleighsa Welch**

Senior Forward  
33 games started; 13.7 points per game; 7.6 rebounds per game; 1.9 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 25 Tiffany Mitchell**

Junior Guard  
34 games started; 15.5 points per game; 5.6 rebounds per game; 3.4 assists per game.



Olivia Barthel | Weekender

**No. 33****Elem Ibiam**

Senior Center  
34 games started; 9.5 points per game; 6.1 rebounds per game; 0.3 assists per game.

**Sixth Man**

**No. 10 Duane Notice**  
Sophomore Guard

**Men's Roster:**

No. -- Shamiek Sheppard - Freshman Guard/Forward  
No. 1 Marcus Stroman - Freshman Guard  
No. 5 TeMarcus Blaton - Freshman Guard  
No. 12 Austin Constable - Junior Forward  
No. 15 Reggie Theus Jr. - Sophomore Forward  
No. 20 Justin McKie - Sophomore Guard  
No. 21 Demetrius Henry - Sophomore Forward/Center  
No. 35 Brian Steele - Junior Forward

**Men****Sixth Man**

**No. 41 Alaina Coates**  
Sophomore Center

**Women's Roster:**

No. 0 India Farmer - Sophomore Forward  
No. 1 Bianca Cuevas - Freshman Guard  
No. 2 Olivia Gaines - Senior Guard  
No. 3 Kaydra Duckett - Freshman Guard  
No. 4 Doniyah Cliney - Freshman Guard  
No. 15 Tiffany Davis - Sophomore Guard  
No. 23 Tina Roy - Junior Guard  
No. 31 Asia Dozier - Junior Guard/Forward  
No. 40 Jatarie White - Freshman Forward

**Women**





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# 2014-15 Basketball Schedule

## Men's Basketball

11/14/14	vs. North Florida	7 p.m.
11/18/14	vs. Baylor	Noon
11/20/14	vs. Cornell (Charleston, S.C.)	7:30 p.m.
11/21/14	Penn State/Charlotte (Charleston, S.C.)	TBA
11/23/14	TBD (Charleston, S.C.)	TBA
11/26/14	vs. UNC Asheville	8 p.m.
12/01/14	at Marshall	7 p.m.
12/06/14	vs. Oklahoma State	Noon
12/19/14	vs. Clemson	7 p.m.
12/21/14	vs. Coker	3:30 p.m.
12/30/14	vs. North Carolina A&T	7 p.m.
01/03/15	vs. Iowa State (Brooklyn, N.Y.)	TBA
01/07/15	vs. Florida	7 p.m.
01/10/15	at Ole Miss	5 p.m.
01/13/15	vs. Alabama	7 p.m.
01/17/15	at Auburn	8 p.m.
01/20/15	vs. Tennessee	9 p.m.
01/24/15	vs. Kentucky	Noon
01/28/15	at LSU	7 p.m.
01/31/15	vs. Georgia	4 p.m.
02/03/15	at Arkansas	9 p.m.
02/07/15	at Vanderbilt	4 p.m.
02/10/15	vs. Missouri	7 p.m.
02/14/15	at Kentucky	2 p.m.
02/17/15	at Georgia	7 p.m.
02/21/15	vs. Texas A&M	Noon
02/24/15	at Alabama	7 p.m.
02/28/15	vs. Mississippi State	6 p.m.
03/05/15	vs. Arkansas	7 p.m.
03/07/15	at Tennessee	4 p.m.

## Women's Basketball

11/15/14	vs. Southern California	7 p.m.
11/20/14	vs. Clemson	7 p.m.
11/23/14	vs. San Diego State	3 p.m.
11/27/14	vs. Wisconsin (Freeport, Bahamas)	4:15 p.m.
11/28/14	East Carolina/Syracuse (Freeport, Bahamas)	8 p.m.
12/01/14	vs. North Carolina Central	7 p.m.
12/04/14	vs. Charlotte	8 p.m.
12/07/14	at Duke	1 p.m.
12/14/14	vs. Savannah State	Noon
12/17/14	at Hampton University	7 p.m.
12/20/14	vs. Central Michigan (Minneapolis, Minn.)	1 p.m.
12/21/14	vs. Liberty (Minneapolis, Minn.)	1 p.m.
01/02/15	vs. Auburn	7 p.m.
01/04/15	at LSU	3 p.m.
01/08/15	at Alabama	7 p.m.
01/11/15	vs. Kentucky	1 p.m.
01/15/15	at Missouri	9 p.m.
01/19/15	at Florida	7 p.m.
01/26/15	vs. Texas A&M	7 p.m.
01/29/15	vs. Alabama	7 p.m.
02/01/15	at Ole Miss	4:30 p.m.
02/05/15	at Georgia	7 p.m.
02/09/15	at Connecticut	8 p.m.
02/12/15	vs. LSU	7 p.m.
02/15/15	vs. Vanderbilt	Noon
02/19/15	at Arkansas	9 p.m.
02/23/15	vs. Tennessee	9 p.m.
02/26/15	vs. Mississippi State	7 p.m.
03/01/15	at Kentucky	2 or 5 p.m.



# Weekend Calendar Nov. 14 through Nov. 16

## FRIDAY

### TIM NORTHERN

Red Door Tavern, 134 1/2 State St.  
Fri, 8 p.m., Free

Tim Northern is a comedian currently touring the U.S. stand up circuit. Tending toward cerebral comedy, Northern tends to "provide you with two-thirds of the joke, and you provide the other third. It's like do-it-yourself comedy."

### OUR TOWN

Longstreet Theatre

Fri, 8 p.m., \$12 (students), \$16 (faculty/staff, military, seniors)

This weekend, you could go see Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play about the American dream. The show was hailed by the New York Times as a celebration of "both the marvel of everyday existence and the 'something way down deep that's eternal about every human being.'" This production will run from Nov. 14 through Nov. 22.

## SATURDAY

### FALL BRAWL WITH COLUMBIA ROLLER DERBY

Solomon Center at Fort Jackson, 6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd.

Sat, Bout 1 doors: 11 a.m., whistle: 11:30 a.m., Bout 2 doors: 4 p.m., whistle: 4:30 p.m., Free

Support the Columbia QuadSquad in their final bouts of the season. In the morning, the Fort Meyers Derby Girls will face off against the Carolina Roller girls, then it's Skater Tots vs. Minor Violations. In the evening, Columbia's Miss B-havers will go head to head with the Carolina Roller girls B-team.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON OPENER

Colonial Life Arena

Sat, 7 p.m., Free with CarolinaCard  
Beginning the season as the No. 2 team in the nation and the reigning SEC champions, the South Carolina women's basketball team will open up its 2014/15 campaign Saturday against Southern Cal.

## SUNDAY

### CINÉCOLA FILM FESTIVAL

Columbia Museum of Art, 1515 Main St.  
Sun, 2 p.m., Free

CinéCola is the city's own French and Francophone film festival, started to promote culture diversity in the community. With the help of the USC and Columbia College French departments, a screening of "Ernest et Célestine" will take place at the Columbia Museum of Art and is free to the public.

### THE FOXERY / MARTIN + POSTRONICS / DYEL

New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.  
Sun, 8 p.m., \$5 / under 21 \$8

This weekend the New Brookland Tavern is going indie — The Foxery is coming to Columbia from Louisville, Kentucky. Columbia-based groups Martin + Postronics and DYEL will also take the stage on Sunday.

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Sports Staff

# PRESEASON POWER RANKINGS

*SEC Men's  
Basketball*



1

Kentucky

## Head Coach

John Calipai

## Team's Roster

Aaron Harrison	Devin Booker
Andrew Harrison	Trey Lyles
Alex Poythress	Dominique Hawkins
Karl Anthony-Towns	Derek Willis
Tyler Ulis	Dakari Johnson
Marcus Lee	Willie Cauley-Stein

## Key Player

Junior Forward  
Willie Cauley-Stein

**Lost**  
in NCAA  
National  
Championship

**Second**  
in SEC

## Gamecocks head-to-head

Jan. 24 at South Carolina  
Feb. 14 at Kentucky





2 Florida

Head Coach

Billy Donovan

Key Player

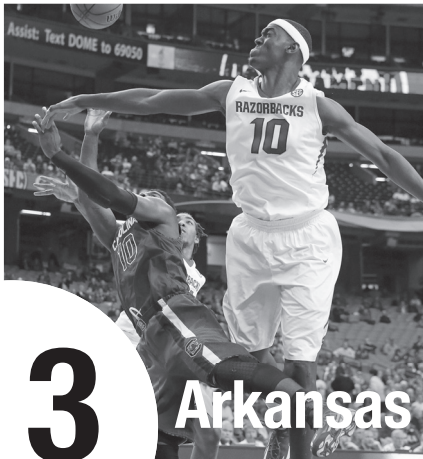
Junior Guard  
Michael Frazier II

Lost  
in NCAA  
Final Four

First  
in SEC

Gamecocks head-to-head

Jan. 7 at South Carolina



3 Arkansas

Head Coach

Mike Anderson

Key Player

Bobby Portis

Lost  
in NIT  
Sweet 16

Fifth  
in SEC

Gamecocks head-to-head

Feb. 3 at Arkansas  
March 5 at South Carolina



4 LSU

Head Coach

Johnny Jones

Key Player

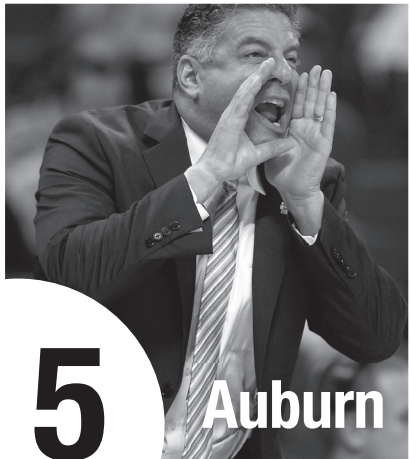
Sophomore Forward  
Jordan Mickey

Lost  
in NIT  
Sweet 16

Seventh  
in SEC

Gamecocks head-to-head

Jan. 28 at LSU



5 Auburn

Head Coach

Bruce Pearl

Key Player

Senior Guard  
KT Harrell

No  
tournament  
bid

12th  
in SEC

Gamecocks head-to-head

Jan. 17 at Auburn

ALSO

6 Georgia

9 S. Carolina

12 Missouri

7 Ole Miss

10 Texas A&M

13 Vanderbilt

8 Alabama

11 Tennessee

14 Miss. State



# PRESEASON POWER RANKINGS

## *SEC Women's Basketball*



1

South  
Carolina

Head Coach

Dawn Staley

Team's Roster

India Farmer  
Bianca Cuevas  
Olivia Gaines  
Kaydra Duckett  
Doniyah Cliney  
Kadijah Sessions  
Tiffany Davis  
A'ja Wilson

Tina Roy  
Aleighsa Welch  
Tiffany Mitchell  
Asia Dozier  
Elem Ibiam  
Jatarie White  
Alaina Coates

Key Player



Junior Guard  
Tiffany Mitchell

**Lost**  
in NCAA  
Sweet 16

**First**  
in SEC

SEC opener

Jan. 2 vs. Auburn



**2** Tennessee

**Head Coach**

Holly Warlick

**Key Player**

Senior Center  
Isabelle Harrison

**Lost**  
in NCAA  
Sweet 16

**Second**  
in SEC

**Gamecocks head-to-head**

Feb. 23 at South Carolina



**3** Texas A&M

**Head Coach**

Gary Blair

**Key Player**

Junior Guard  
Courtney Walker

**Lost**  
in NCAA  
Elite Eight

**Third**  
in SEC

**Gamecocks head-to-head**

Jan. 26 at South Carolina



**4** Kentucky

**Head Coach**

Matthew Mitchell

**Key Player**

Senior Guard  
Jennifer O'Neill

**Lost**  
in NCAA  
Sweet 16

**Fourth**  
in SEC

**Gamecocks head-to-head**

Jan. 11 at South Carolina  
March 1 at Kentucky



**5** LSU

**Head Coach**

Nikki Caldwell

**Key Player**

Junior Guard  
Danielle Ballard

**Lost**  
in NCAA  
Sweet 16

**Seventh**  
in SEC

**Gamecocks head-to-head**

Jan. 4 at LSU  
Feb. 12 at South Carolina

**ALSO**

**6** Vanderbilt

**9** Miss. State

**12** Missouri

**7** Georgia

**10** Florida

**13** Alabama

**8** Arkansas

**11** Auburn

**14** Ole Miss



# ROCK WOOD

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**BEST OF**



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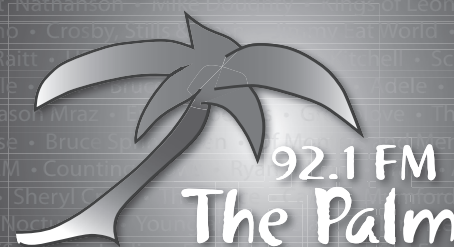
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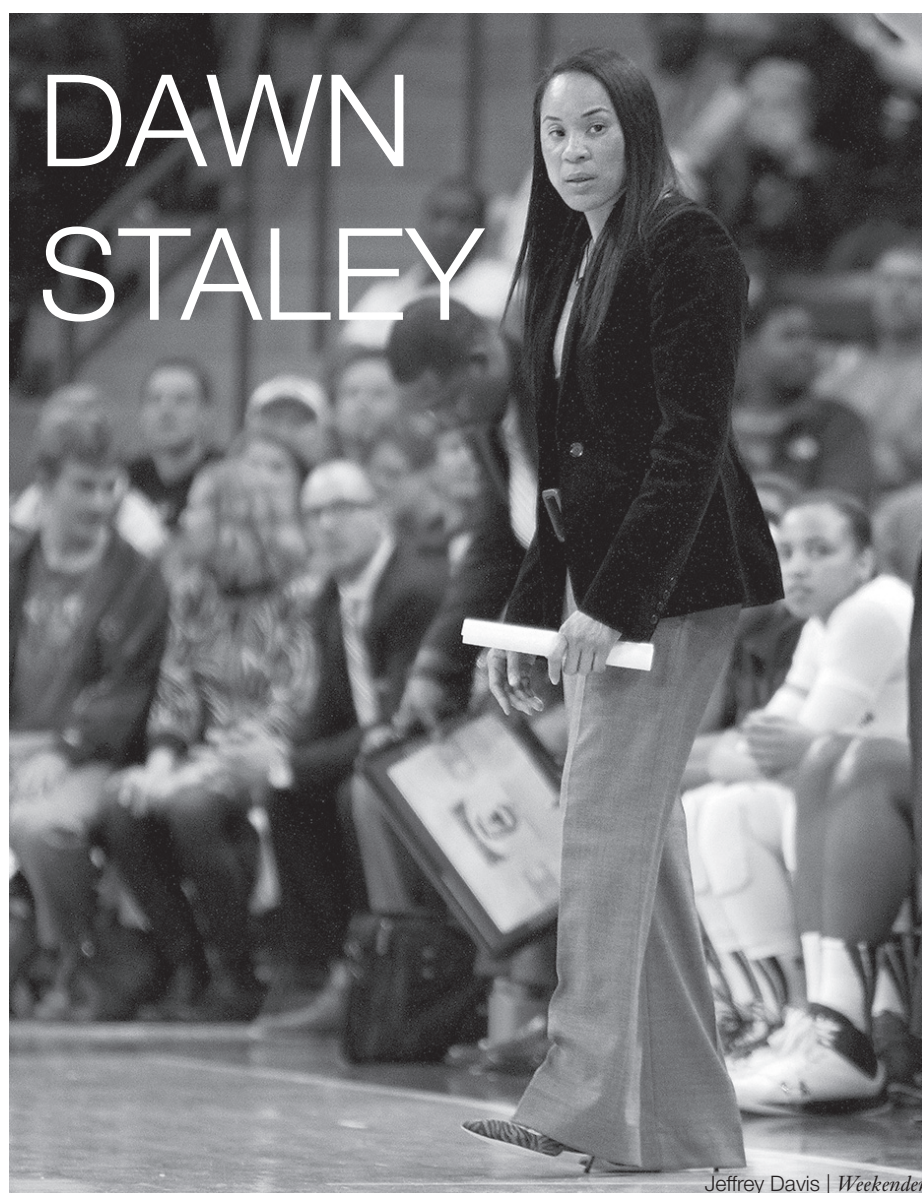
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# Meet the Coaches

David Roberts  
@DAVIDJAYROBERTS



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

There has been an undeniable buzz surrounding South Carolina's women's basketball team, a large portion of which could be attributed to what head coach Dawn Staley has been able to accomplish during her tenure.

After her most successful season at the helm for South Carolina, Staley landed the nation's top recruit A'ja Wilson, who will complement 2014 SEC player of the year Tiffany Mitchell this coming season. The hype directed toward Staley's squad

is a direct result of three consecutive NCAA tournament appearances, despite failing to move past the Sweet Sixteen.

Staley is a three-time Olympic champion, and was inducted to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013. Before landing at South Carolina, she played seven seasons in the WNBA, as well as rejuvenating Temple's program, leading the Owls to six NCAA tournament appearances in eight seasons.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

Though the success head coach Frank Martin has sustained in his two and a half years at South Carolina has been limited, it has been enough to draw and stimulate the interest of a fan base longing for a successful men's basketball program.

Martin came to South Carolina after a stop at Kansas State, where he won 117 games in five seasons. He accumulated 32 conference losses over that span, yet over two years with the Gamecocks has 27

conference losses.

Under Martin, the team has seen two players named to the SEC all-freshman team — forward Michael Carrera in 2012-13, guard Sindarius Thornwell in 2013-14.

Martin and the Gamecocks finished last season winning four of their last six contests, triggered by a 72-67 upset of then-No. 17 Kentucky.



# Ask Dailey

@askdailey

This week Dailey tackles matters of the heart and that ever-awkward Strom experience.

**Q:** I started talking to my ex-girlfriend the other day, and we ended up talking for hours. I'm starting to have second thoughts about our breakup, even though it's been a while. What should I do? Dateless Devon

**A:** Post relationship drama is always tricky. Often when you go a while without talking to your ex, you tend to romanticize all of the good things about your past relationship and block out the bad things that led to your breakup. Absence makes the heart grow fonder, and that applies in more ways than one. I'm not saying you should

stop talking to your ex-girlfriend, but what I am saying is that you should take the time to reflect on what led to the two of you splitting up in the first place.

**Q:** I hate going to Strom. I want to work out but I feel like every time I go, all the cardio equipment is taken by an entire sorority or something. And don't even get me started on the straight up body builders downstairs with the weights. How is a girl who doesn't have time to live at the gym supposed to find room to fit in? Gym Jitters Julie

**A:** To be honest, if you're looking for a space at Strom, you're going to have to fight for it. Unless you have the time and energy to get to the gym when it's not populated (either very late at night or very early in the morning), it's

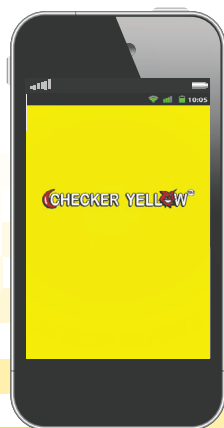
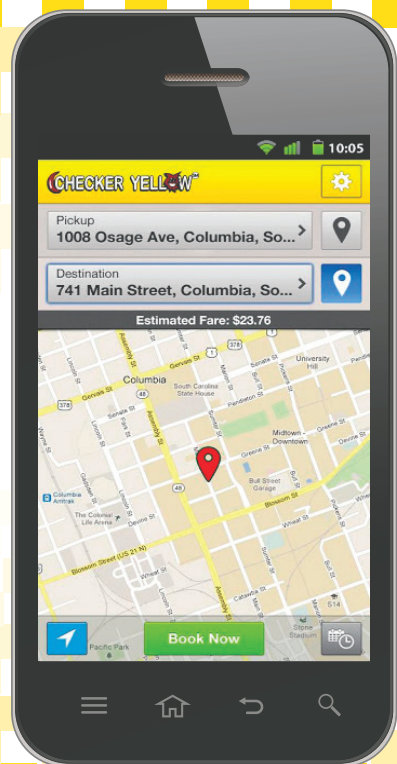
going to be a struggle. It might require you to perform a few radical acts of gym socializing, like waiting for them to get off the cardio machines or politely asking them when they're going to be finished. If that seems impossible, it doesn't hurt to diversify your exercise regimen. There are usually spots on other machines somewhere. Take the less-used machines, then move on when others finish.



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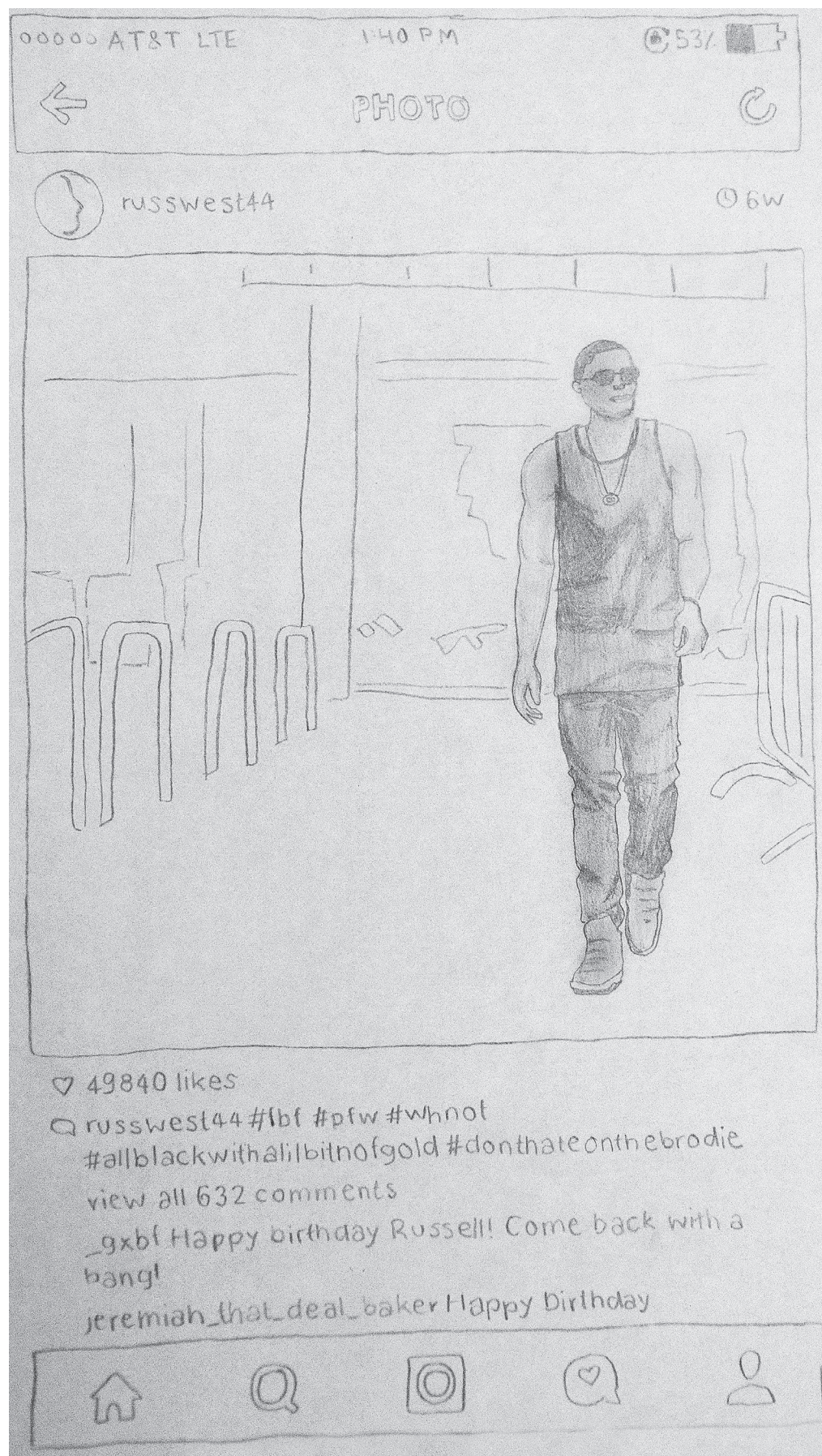
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Artwork by Kelly Villwock | Photo by Kamila Melko | Weekender

# Baller looks transcend the sport

*Off the court, NBA stars dictate rest of world's style choices*

Kelly Villwock  
@KELLYVILLWOCK

**B**asketball fashion is iconic — the influences of NBA and college stars go beyond the boundaries of their uniforms. These players, unlike any others, bring something extra to the world of professional sports: style that transcends the game and turns basketball into a cultural superpower.

The sport's transition from short-shorts to knee-length shorts prompted the public to (thankfully) follow suit. The introduction of Air Jordans in the 80s yielded a mainstay shoe that has yet to go out of style. Allen Iverson's cornrows married hip-hop culture to basketball. You can still find Chuck Taylors in countless closets. Jerseys have bridged the gap between casual wear and a statement piece. (See: Miley Cyrus wearing the remains of a Chicago Bulls jersey in the music video for "23.")

Like any other sport, the greatest moments tend to involve a winning season and a trophy, but basketball superstars make as much of a statement off the court as they do on it. Instead of only signing deals with Nike or Gatorade, these men and women promote their personal styles on the cover of GQ or front-row at Fashion Week, and people take notice. The players are the brand, and their style is their branding.



# Meet the teams: men's and women's basketball



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 0****Sindarius Thornwell**

Sophomore Guard  
34 games started; 13.4 points per game; 4.1 rebounds per game; 2.9 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 4****Tyrone Johnson**

Redshirt Senior Guard  
9 games started; 11.2 points per game; 2.9 rebounds per game; 3.4 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 14****Laimonas Chatkevicius**

Junior Forward  
1 game started; 4.8 points per game; 4.1 rebounds per game; 0.3 assists per game.



Olivia Barthel | Weekender

**No. 24****Michael Carrera**

Junior Forward  
20 games started; 6 points per game; 5.6 rebounds per game; 0.5 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 25****Mindaugas Kacinas**

Junior Forward  
27 games started; 5.6 points per game; 5.1 rebounds per game; 0.3 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 5****Khadijah Sessions**

Junior Guard  
26 games started; 7.2 points per game; 1.6 rebounds per game; 2.6 assists per game.



Courtesy of Media Relations

**No. 22****A'ja Wilson**

Freshman Guard/Forward  
**IN HIGH SCHOOL:**  
25 games started; 34.4 points per game; 13.9 rebounds per game; 2.2 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 24****Aleighsa Welch**

Senior Forward  
33 games started; 13.7 points per game; 7.6 rebounds per game; 1.9 assists per game.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

**No. 25 Tiffany Mitchell**

Junior Guard  
34 games started; 15.5 points per game; 5.6 rebounds per game; 3.4 assists per game.



Olivia Barthel | Weekender

**No. 33****Elem Ibiam**

Senior Center  
34 games started; 9.5 points per game; 6.1 rebounds per game; 0.3 assists per game.

**Sixth Man**

**No. 10 Duane Notice**  
Sophomore Guard

**Men's Roster:**

No. -- Shamiek Sheppard - Freshman Guard/Forward  
No. 1 Marcus Stroman - Freshman Guard  
No. 5 TeMarcus Blaton - Freshman Guard  
No. 12 Austin Constable - Junior Forward  
No. 15 Reggie Theus Jr. - Sophomore Forward  
No. 20 Justin McKie - Sophomore Guard  
No. 21 Demetrius Henry - Sophomore Forward/Center  
No. 35 Brian Steele - Junior Forward

**Men****Sixth Man**

**No. 41 Alaina Coates**  
Sophomore Center

**Women's Roster:**

No. 0 India Farmer - Sophomore Forward  
No. 1 Bianca Cuevas - Freshman Guard  
No. 2 Olivia Gaines - Senior Guard  
No. 3 Kaydra Duckett - Freshman Guard  
No. 4 Doniyah Cliney - Freshman Guard  
No. 15 Tiffany Davis - Sophomore Guard  
No. 23 Tina Roy - Junior Guard  
No. 31 Asia Dozier - Junior Guard/Forward  
No. 40 Jatarie White - Freshman Forward

**Women**





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# Why now is the time to believe

Men's basketball showed glimpses of greatness at last season's close



**Dalton Abel**  
Senior Writer

@DALTON\_ABEL22

As the 2014-15 college basketball season gets ready to tip off Friday, my mind wanders off to some of the great moments of the madness that was last March (and April).

Although South Carolina unofficially set off the fire on March 1 with a stunning, court-storming worthy victory against eventual national runner-up Kentucky, its involvement in the Big Dance was mute. The Gamecocks missed the NCAA Tournament for the tenth straight year.

I hail from Connecticut, a land that boasts five good months of what a warm-blooded person would simply refer to as “indoor weather.” For the past 10 years, I have spent those months avidly following the University of Connecticut basketball team, which won its fourth national championship in April.

I grew up watching Big East basketball — the old one, that is — filled with historic rivalries between the likes of Syracuse, Georgetown, Villanova, St. Johns and many more. For years, the Big East consistently put the most teams in the NCAA Tournament field. It was high-quality college basketball.

But then, the Big East as we knew it broke up, and I left the Nutmeg State for school. I feared the impending void in my winters. I knew Frank Martin had taken the head-coaching gig at South Carolina, but come on, who wanted to go play at South Carolina?

I wanted to be a direct part of the madness. I wanted to conveniently be sick at 12:15 on a Thursday afternoon along with the rest of my buddies to watch our school compete. When I first arrived here, I had my doubts.

However, it became apparent from watching the team last season that Martin had supplied himself with a coachable, young nucleus. Sindarius Thornwell authoritatively took the final shot against Baylor in his second collegiate game, and continuously did so in tight contests throughout the year. Duane Notice



Courtesy of MCT Campus

continued to be aggressive and make plays even when he seemed to be in Martin's doghouse.

The casual fan saw a 14-20 record and brushed it off to the mediocrity that has enveloped this program since the Frank McGuire days. After all, the Gamecocks have made the NCAA Tournament just four times since 1974.

But what shone through in the SEC Tournament was the impressive growth the team underwent throughout the season. The team that burst Arkansas's bubble in the SEC Tournament in March did not resemble the team that lost to Manhattan and USC Upstate in December.

The first two years of Martin's tenure were essentially spent wiping the slate clean and laying a new foundation. Now, Martin has his team ready to ascend to new heights.

For anyone who has ever attended a Frank Martin press conference or listened to him speak,

his emphasis on the culture in the locker room is impossible to ignore. When asked after the Benedict exhibition about the likelihood of bringing in walk-ons for practice help due to amassing injuries, Martin said he would rather practice with six guys than bring someone in who doesn't fully understand his role.

The priority Martin places on attitude, work ethic and structure is the fundamental reason he has his players believing in this year's team and this program moving forward.

Because lasting success comes from a lasting culture. Tom Brady may be a great quarterback, but if he didn't take his linemen out for nice steak dinners after a hard-fought win, the incentive and the bond might not last. Culture.

That is why the team believes. And that is why you should believe, too.





**Back to**

# **“The Swamp”**

David Roberts  
@DAVIDJAYROBERTS

After Steve Spurrier announced his resignation as football coach of the Florida Gators in 2002, he offered a voice of reassurance to those who watched him lead a program into prominence.

“I am a Gator,” he said, “and will be for the rest of my life.”

**“I am a Gator and will be  
for the rest of my life.”**

**—Steve Spurrier**





Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

Spurrier was the first Gator to win a Heisman Trophy, the first Gator coach to win an SEC title and the first coach to escort Florida to a national title.

He was the one who initially pegged Ben Hill Griffin Stadium as “The Swamp” in the early 1990s.

And on Saturday afternoon, when he returns to his former home, he will walk past a bronze statue of his 1966 Heisman Trophy-winning self, throwing arm cocked back and an “F” on the side of his helmet, for he remains a fixture in Florida football history.

But this time when he visits his alma mater, he’ll do so clad in garnet and black.

“As far as me going down there again,” Spurrier said, “I’ll look around the stadium during warmups, and then when the game starts, hopefully [we’ll] get the plays in there, get the defense and special teams guys ready to go and try to do whatever I can to help us win the game.”

Saturday will mark the fifth time Spurrier has coached against the Gators in The Swamp, winning only once. That win came in 2010 when

the Gamecocks clinched the SEC East with a 36-14 win. Running back Marcus Lattimore was a true freshman and rushed for 212 yards in the victory.

This time is different.

The underachieving Gamecocks need two wins in their final three games just to be bowl eligible, something they’ve accomplished every year so far under Spurrier.

And with a struggling defense set to face freshman quarterback Treon Harris and a surging Gators offense, limiting big plays has become a focal point for South Carolina this week in practice.

Florida seems to have found a spark in Harris, igniting a once-struggling offense. Despite passing for only 27 yards in a win against Georgia two weeks ago, Harris has led Florida to back-to-back wins, something the Gamecocks haven’t been able to do since September.

Harris racked up 264 yards of total offense against Vanderbilt last week and also rushed for two scores.

As poorly as South Carolina has performed as a collective unit this season, it’s hard to pin

much of that on the team’s offense. Statistically, the Gamecocks have been stellar on that side of the ball.

Sophomore wide receiver Pharoh Cooper is second in the SEC in receiving yards, coming off a school-record 233-yard explosion through the air against Tennessee. On top of this, the only player in the conference who has passed for more yards than redshirt senior Dylan Thompson is Texas A&M’s Kenny Hill. Thompson will likely surpass Hill as the SEC’s leading passer after this game, as Hill has since been benched for freshman Kyle Allen.

But even though South Carolina’s offense has been able to keep the team in most games this season, assistant coach Steve Spurrier Jr. doesn’t want that to be the team’s mentality going into Saturday’s game.

“It’s a team sport. At the end of the day, we’re all one team. We all know that,” he said. “You win together, and you lose together. Some people get more attention than others, and certainly we’ve had a lot of that too, but at the end of the day, we’re all together.”



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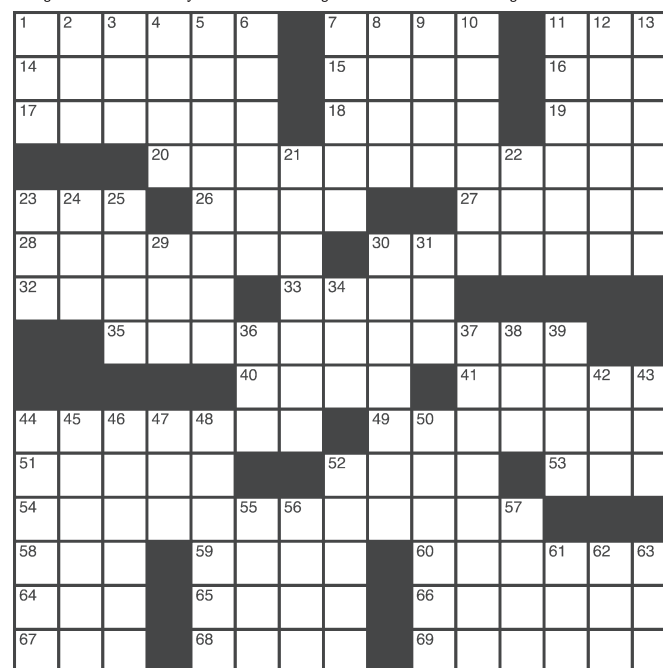
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1 Canal locale  
 7 Exile isle  
 11 Young boy  
 14 Mount where Noah's ark landed  
 15 Color similar to aqua  
 16 "\_\_\_ was saying ..."  
 17 Staccato's opposite  
 18 "B.C." creator Johnny  
 19 Mex. neighbor  
 20 #1 hit by a 30-Across member  
 23 Longtime U.K. record label  
 26 Speechifier's spot  
 27 Botanical puffiness  
 28 High-pitched flute  
 30 '60s pop group  
 32 Shady spot  
 33 Detective's lead  
 35 #1 hit by a 30-Across member  
 40 Ain't as it should be?  
 41 Bring together  
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 49 Gasoline ratings  
 51 Parceled (out)  
 52 Sharer's word  
 53 Tree juice  
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 59 Top of the line  
 60 Stylish Oldsmobiles  
 64 PC linking acronym  
 65 \_\_\_ Gaga  
 66 Catches some z's  
 67 Doo-wop's \_\_\_ Na Na  
 68 Terrier named for a Scottish isle  
 69 Expansive home

### DOWN

1 Bud  
 2 "My lips \_\_\_ sealed"  
 3 Re-re-re-remind?  
 4 Oman man, usually  
 5 Bullfighters  
 6 Keyless  
 7 Spirit of a people  
 8 Hamburger grading word  
 9 Starr of the NFL  
 10 '50s tennis standout Gibson  
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